

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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DHA-02 ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 191010Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2618

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 11572

CINCPAC FORPOLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR END

SUMMARY. JAPAN'S OBSERVANCE OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE PACIFIC WAR WAS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S CONTROVERSIAL VISIT "AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN" TO A SHRINE LONG ASSOCIATED WITH WARTIME EXCESSES AND THE RIGHTWING. AT THE SAME TIME, A PUBLIC OPINION POLL OF TOKYOITES, TAKEN JUST BEFORE THE ANNIVERSARY, REFLECTS A VARIETY OF INTERESTING VIEWS ON PEACE AND WAR--MANY OF WHICH WOULD NOT OCCUR TO NON-JAPANESE. THE SURVEY UNDERSCORES A WIDESPREAD VIEWPOINT HERE, WHICH WE SHARE, THAT JAPAN THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE WAR REMAINS PROFOUNDLY PACIFISTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPAN OBSERVED THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE "PACIFIC WAR" ON A SUNNY AUGUST 15 WITH MANY JAPANESE AT MOUNTAIN OR
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SEASIDE RESORTS. IN TOKYO, THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR OVER THREE MILLION WAR DEAD AT THE MARTIAL ARTS HALL WAS ATTENDED BY THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS, PROMINENT OFFICIALS AND 6,000 FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FALLEN.

2. THE ONLY CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THIS YEAR'S OBSERVANCE WAS PRIMIN MIKI'S DECISION TO PAY RESPECTS "AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN TO WAR DEAD AT YASUKUNI SHRINE, LONG ASSOCIATED WITH WARTIME PATRIOTIC FERVOR AND THE CONTEMPORARY RIGHTWING. HE WAS THE FIRST PRIMIN IN POST-WAR HISTORY TO VISIT THE SHRINE ON THIS DATE IN ANY CAPACITY. WHILE HIS ATTENDANCE PLEASED LDP HAWKS, IT ALSO PROMPTED SHARP OPPOSITION PARTY CRITICISM AND RALLIES BY BUDDHISTS, CHRISTIANS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND THE STATE. THE ISSUE WILL NO DOUBT BE PURSUED IN THE UPCOMING DIET SESSION.

3. THE ANNIVERSARY ALSO PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR A FASCINATING SURVEY OF CURRENT POPULAR OPINION. THE TOKYO SHIMBUN SURVEYED TOKYO RESIDENTS (ONLY) AUGUST 2-4 ON ISSUES ON WAR AND PEACE. THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE WAR'S END. SOME OF THEIR MORE INTERESTING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWS:

(A) DURING THE PAST THIRTY YEARS, HOW DO YOU BELIEVE THE JAPANESE AND JAPANESE SOCIETY HAVE CHANGED?

--BECOME MUCH BETTER 15.2 PCT
-- BECOME CONSIDERABLY BETTER 52.7 PCT
--DON'T KNOW 10 PCT
-- BECOME WORSE 17.3 PCT
--BECOME MUCH WORSE 2.5 PCT

(B) WHY HAS JAPAN ENJOYED PEACE DURING THE PAST THIRTY YEARS?

(ANSWERS SUPPLIED, THREE CHOICES TO BE SELECTED)

--BECAUSE JAPAN HAS ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED WAR 42.3 PCT
--BECAUSE JAPAN HAS PRESERVED ARTICLE NINE("NO WAR") OF THE CONSTITUTION 34.5 PCT
--DUE TO THE US-JAPAN MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY 34.9 PCT
--DUE TO REMARKABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 30.2 PCT
--BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS 22.3 PCT
--FEAR OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS 21.8 PCT
--EXPANSION OF DEMOCRACY 20.5 PCT
--BECAUSE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THOUGHT AND ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN PRESERVED 17.3 PCT
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--BECAUSE OF SKILLFUL JAPANESE DIPLOMACY/POLITICS 16.6 PCT
--BECAUSE OF JAPAN'S GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION 12 PCT
--DUE TO STRENGTHENING AND EXPANSION OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES 11.6 PCT
-- BECAUSE OF SUCCESSFUL UN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS 10.7 PCT
--DUE TO THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN 8.6 PCT
--BECAUSE OF THE RESTRAINT ON THE MUNITIONS INDUSTRY 5.9 PCT
--BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES 3.6 PCT
C) IN THE NEAR FUTURE, DO YOU BELIEVE JAPAN WILL MAKE WAR OR BECOME INVOLVED IN WAR?
--YES 5.2PCT
--THERE IS THE DANGER 21.4 PCT

--PROBABLY NOT 29.3 PCT
--DEFINITELY NOT 5.7 PCT
--CAN'T SAY 29.1 PCT
--DON'T KNOW 8.6 PCT
(D) WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF JAPAN PREPARED TO MAKE WAR OR LOOKED
AS IF IT WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN WAR?
--WOULD FIGHT ACTIVELY 5.7 PCT
--WOULD FIGHT BECAUSE IT COULDN'T BE HELPED 12.3 PCT
--WOULD RESIST THE WAR 43.4 PCT
--WOULD DO NOTHING AND LET EVENTS TAKE THEIR COURSE 14.3 PCT
--WOULD FLEE ABROAD 3.4 PCT
--DON'T KNOW 20.7 PCT

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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(E) IS THIS SORT OF SITUATION (PREPARING FOR WAR OR BECOMING
INVOLVED IN WAR), WHAT DO YOU THINK JAPAN SHOULD DO? (ONE ANSWER
ONLY)

--LEAVE THE MATTER TO THE UN 50.7 PCT
--PUT THE COUNTRY FIRST AND FIGHT 14.1 PCT
--RELY ON AMERICAN HELP UNDER THE MUTUAL SECURITY
TREATY 10.7 PCT
--SURRENDER QUICKLY 5.5 PCT
--RELY ON THE SELF DEFENSE FORCES 6.6 PCT
(F) IN JAPAN SINCE THE AR THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSCRIPTION.
HOWEVER, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT? (ANSWERS SUPPLIED, CHOOSE ONE)
--GIVEN THE CONSTITUTION'S "NO WAR" CLAUSE, IT IS NATURAL

NOT TO HAVE CONSCRIPTION 52.7 PCT

--WHETHER OR NOT JAPAN MAKES WAR, CONSCRIPTION IS

NECESSARY FOR A NATION AS A LAST RESORT 23.4 PCT

--SINCE NO ONE KNOWS WHEN NATIONNS WILL FIGHT, HAVING

CONSCRIPTION IS A GOOD IDEA 8.9 PCT

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--DON'T KNOW 14.5 PCT

(G) IF JAPAN HAD A CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

--RESPECT IT 43.2 PCT

--COMPLY BECAUS NOTHING CAN BE DONE 27.3 PCT

--DON'T KNOW 19E PCT

--COMPLY WILINGLY 9.5 PCT

(H) WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE PEACE IN THE FUTURE? (GIVE TWO VIEWS ONLY)

-- PRESERVATION OF THE PEACCE CONSTITUTION 51.1 PCT

--PROMOTION OF PEACE EDUCATION/PEACE MOVEMENTS 42.3 PCT

--PROMOTION OF UN DIPLOMACY 29.5 PCT

--PRESERVATION OF FREE SPEECH AND THOUGHT 13.6 PCT

--PRESERVATION OF THE CURRENT SECURITY TREATY 9.8 PCT

--STRENGTHENING OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES 9.5 PCT

--AVOID FRIGHTEENING OTHER COUNTIRES WITH MILITARY POWER 8.2 PCT

--PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY 7.5 PCT

--STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY TREATY 6.1 PCT

--ABROAGE THE SECURITY AND STAND ON OUR OWN 5.7 PCT

--RESTRAIN THE MUNITIONS INDUSTRY 5.2 PCT

--POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS 2.7. PCT

(I) IN CASES LIKE AN OIL OR FOOD SHORTAGE, NATIONAL POLICY AND INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS MAY CONFLICT. IN THAT CASE WHT WOULD YOU DO?

--SET ASIDE FAMILY AND PERSONAL INTERSTS AND FOLLOW NATIONAL POLICY 17.5 PCT

--IN CASE OF A CONFLICT, FOLLOWING NATONAL POLICY 18.2 PCT

--EVEN IF IT CONFLICED WITH NATIONAL POLICY TO SOME EXTENT, SSURE (OURSELVES) OFTHINGS LIKE OIL AND FOOD FOR THE SAKE OF THE FAMILY AND SELF 30.0 PCT

--IN CASE OF A CONFLICT , GIVE PRIORITY TO FAMILY AND SELF 29.9 PCT

--DON'T KNOW 13.0 PCT

--NO REPLY 0.4 PCT

(SEX AND AGE BREAKDOWN WERE GIVEN FOR THIS QUESTIN. IN GENERAL, YOUNGER PEOPLE AND WOMEN TENDED TO FAVOR FAMILY, WHILE OLDER PEOPLE AND MEN TENDED TO FAVOR COUNTRY. NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF MEN IN THEI TWENTIES, FOR EXAMPLE, FAVOREDSELF).

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RM COMMENT. JAPAN HAS CHANGED MARKEDLY IN THE PAST THIRTY YEARS--FAR MORE THAN MOST NON-JAPANESE REALIZE. NEARLY 60PCT OF THE PRESENT POPULATION WAS EITHER UNBORN OR OF PRE-SCHOOL AGE WHEN THE WAR ENDED. MANY MOTHERS WITH NO MEMORY OF THE WAR NOW HAVE CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL. BUT FOR THE REMAINING TWO-FIFTHS OF THE POPULATION, THE WAR AND ITS CONCLUSION ON AUGUST 15, 1945 REMAIN THE MOST SEARING EXPERIENCES OF THEIR LIVES. AND JUST AS A GENERATION OF AMERICANS, HAVING EXPERIENCED THE GREAT DEPRESSION, IMPRESSED THEIR ADVERSE EXPERIENCE ON THE GENERATION WHICH FOLLOWED, SO THE WARTIME JAPANESE GENERATION HAS PASSED ON ITS FEARS TO THE POST-WAR GENERATION. THE RESTRAINT IS OFTEN STRONGER "ANTI-WAR" SENTIMENT AMONG YOUNGER JAPANESE THAN AMONG THEIR PARENTS. THUS, THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE WAR, WE AND MOST OTHERS HERE WOULD AGREE THAT, DESPITE THE HANDFUL OF JAPANESE RIGHTWING FANATICS, TERRORISTS AND LEFTWING RADICALS, AND ADMITTING JAPANESE REASONING IS NOT ALWAYS CONVINCING BY OUR LIGHTS, JAPAN REMAINS PROFOUNDLY PACIFICISTIC.

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